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Fifty-first session
THIRD COMMITTEE
Agenda item 108

ELIMINATION OF RACISM AND RACIAL DISCRIMINATION

Costa Rica*: draft resolution

Third Decade to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination

The General Assembly,

Reaffirming its objectives set forth in the Charter of the United Nations to achieve international cooperation in solving problems of an economic, social, cultural or humanitarian character and in promoting and encouraging respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms for all without distinction as to race, sex, language or religion,

Reaffirming also its firm determination and its commitment to eradicate totally and unconditionally racism, in all its forms, and racial discrimination,

Recalling the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, 1/ the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination 2/ and the Convention against Discrimination in Education adopted by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization on 14 December 1960, 3/

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* On behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Group of 77 and China.

1/ Resolution 217 A (III).

2/ Resolution 2106 A (XX), annex.

3/ United Nations Treaty Series vol. 429, No. 6193.

Recalling also the outcome of the two World Conferences to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination, held at Geneva in 1978 and 1983,

Welcoming the outcome of the World Conference on Human Rights, held at Vienna from 14 to 25 June 1993, and, in particular, the attention given in the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action 4/ to the elimination of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and other forms of intolerance,

Stressing the importance of the activities of the Special Rapporteur of the Commission on Human Rights on contemporary forms of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance,

Recalling its resolutions 48/91 of 20 December 1993 and 49/146 of 23 December 1994, by which it proclaimed the Third Decade to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination and adopted the revised Programme of Action for the Third Decade,

Noting with grave concern that, despite the efforts of the international community, the principal objectives of the two Decades for Action to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination have not been attained and that millions of human beings continue to this day to be the victims of varied forms of racism and racial discrimination,

Noting with great concern that, despite the efforts undertaken by the international community at various levels, racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia, ethnic antagonism and acts of violence resulting therefrom are on the increase,

Noting with concern that technological developments in the field of communication, including computer networks such as the Internet, have been used for dissemination of racist and xenophobic propaganda all over the world,

Having considered the reports submitted by the Secretary-General 5/ within the framework of the implementation of the Programme of Action for the Third Decade,

Firmly convinced of the need to take more effective and sustained measures at the national and international levels for the elimination of all forms of racism and racial discrimination,

Recognizing the importance of strengthening national legislation and institutions for the promotion of racial harmony,

Deeply concerned about the fact that the phenomenon of racism and racial discrimination against migrant workers continues to increase despite efforts undertaken by the international community to improve the protection of the human rights of migrant workers and members of their families,

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4/ A/CONF.157/24 (Part I), chap. III.

5/ E/1996/83 and A/51/541.

Recalling the adoption at its forty-fifth session of the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families, 6/

Acknowledging that indigenous people are at times victims of particular forms of racism and racial discrimination,

1. Declares once again that all forms of racism and racial discrimination, whether in their institutionalized form or resulting from official doctrine of racial superiority or exclusivity, such as ethnic cleansing, are among the most serious violations of human rights in the contemporary world and must be combated by all available means;

2. Recalls with satisfaction the proclamation of the Third Decade to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination, which began in 1993, and requests the Secretary-General to make a further review of the Programme of Action with a view to making it more effective and action-oriented;

3. Calls upon Governments to cooperate more closely with the Special Rapporteur of the Commission on Human Rights on contemporary forms of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance to enable him to fulfil his mandate;

4. Urges all Governments to take all necessary measures to combat new forms of racism, in particular by adapting constantly the means provided to combat them, especially in the legislative, administrative, educational and information fields;

5. Requests the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights to give the highest priority in the Centre for Human Rights of the Secretariat to programmes and activities for combating racism and racial discrimination and to the follow-up of those programmes and activities;

6. Requests the Secretary-General to continue to accord special attention to the situation of migrant workers and members of their families and to include regularly in his reports all information on such workers;

7. Calls upon all Member States to consider signing and ratifying or acceding to the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families as a matter of priority;

8. Commends all States which have ratified or acceded to the international instruments to combat racism and racial discrimination;

9. Encourages the mass media to promote ideas of tolerance and understanding among peoples and between different cultures;

10. Recommends that a seminar be organized by the Centre for Human Rights in cooperation with the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination,

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6/ Resolution 45/158, annex.

the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, the International Telecommunication Union and other relevant United Nations bodies, non-governmental organizations and Internet service providers, with a view to assessing the role of the Internet and to suggesting ways and means for its responsible use in the light of the provisions of the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination;

11. Requests the Secretary-General to continue the study on the effects of racial discrimination on the children of minorities, in particular those of migrant workers, in the fields of education, training and employment, and to submit, inter alia, specific recommendations for the implementation of measures to combat the effects of that discrimination;

12. Urges the Secretary-General, United Nations bodies, the specialized agencies, all Governments, intergovernmental organizations and relevant non-governmental organizations, in implementing the Programme of Action for the Third Decade, to pay particular attention to the situation of indigenous people;

13. Requests States to consider the relevant decisions of the Economic and Social Council on the integrated follow-up to previous world conferences and the need to make optimum use of all available mechanisms in the struggle against racism;

14. Strongly underlines the importance of education as a significant means of preventing and eradicating racism and racial discrimination and of creating awareness of principles of human rights, particularly among young people, and in this regard renews its invitation to the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization to expedite the preparation of teaching materials and teaching aids to promote teaching, training and educational activities on human rights and against racism and racial discrimination, with particular emphasis on activities at the primary and secondary levels of education;

15. Considers that all the parts of the Programme of Action for the Third Decade should be given equal attention in order to attain the objectives of the Decade;

16. Regrets the lack of interest, support and financial resources for the Third Decade and its related Programme of Action, which was reflected in the fact that the Centre for Human Rights was able to organize only one seminar since its adoption by the General Assembly in 1993;

17. Considers that voluntary contributions to the Trust Fund for the Programme for the Decade for Action to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination are indispensable for the implementation of the Programme;

18. Requests the Secretary-General to ensure that the necessary financial resources are provided for the implementation of the activities of the Third Decade during the biennium 1996-1997;

19. Also requests the Secretary-General to accord the highest priority to the activities of the Programme of Action for the Third Decade;

20. Further requests the Secretary-General to submit each year to the Economic and Social Council a detailed report on all activities of United Nations bodies and the specialized agencies, containing an analysis of information received on such activities to combat racism and racial discrimination;

21. Invites the Secretary-General to submit proposals to the General Assembly with a view to supplementing, if necessary, the Programme of Action for the Third Decade;

22. Invites all Governments, United Nations bodies, the specialized agencies and other intergovernmental organizations, as well as interested non-governmental organizations in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council, to participate fully in the Third Decade;

23. Notes that unless a supplementary financial effort is made very few of the activities planned for the period 1994-1997 will be carried out;

24. Strongly appeals to all Governments, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations and individuals in a position to do so to contribute generously to the Trust Fund for the Programme for the Decade for Action to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination, and to this end requests the Secretary-General to continue to undertake appropriate contacts and initiatives to encourage contributions;

25. Decides to convene a world conference to combat racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance by the year 1999;

26. Decides to keep the item entitled "Elimination of racism and racial discrimination" on its agenda and to consider it as a matter of the highest priority at its forty-second session.

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Fifty-first session
THIRD COMMITTEE
Agenda item 109

RIGHT OF PEOPLES TO SELF-DETERMINATION

Albania, Azerbaijan, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Brunei Darussalam, Chile, Costa Rica, Egypt, Honduras, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Jordan, Kuwait, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Malaysia, Mauritania, Morocco, Oman, Pakistan, Papua New Guinea, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Thailand and United Arab Emirates: draft resolution

Universal realization of the right of peoples to self-determination

The General Assembly,

Reaffirming the importance, for the effective guarantee and observance of human rights, of the universal realization of the right of peoples to self-determination enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations and embodied in the International Covenants on Human Rights, 1/ as well as in the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples contained in its resolution 1514 (XV) of 14 December 1960,

Welcoming the progressive exercise of the right to self-determination by peoples under colonial, foreign or alien occupation and their emergence into sovereign statehood and independence,

Deeply concerned at the continuation of acts or threats of foreign military intervention and occupation that are threatening to suppress, or have already

1/ Resolution 2200 A (XXI), annex.

suppressed, the right to self-determination of an increasing number of sovereign peoples and nations,

Expressing grave concern that, as a consequence of the persistence of such actions, millions of people have been and are being uprooted from their homes as refugees and displaced persons, and emphasizing the urgent need for concerted international action to alleviate their condition,

Recalling the relevant resolutions regarding the violation of the right of peoples to self-determination and other human rights as a result of foreign military intervention, aggression and occupation, adopted by the Commission on Human Rights at its thirty-sixth, thirty-seventh, thirty-eighth, thirty-ninth, fortieth, forty-first, forty-second, forty-third, forty-fourth, forty-fifth, forty-sixth, forty-seventh, forty-eighth, forty-ninth, fiftieth, fifty-first and fifty-second sessions,

Reaffirming its resolutions 35/35 B of 14 November 1980, 36/10 of 28 October 1981, 37/42 of 3 December 1982, 38/16 of 22 November 1983, 39/18 of 23 November 1984, 40/24 of 29 November 1985, 41/100 of 4 December 1986, 42/94 of 7 December 1987, 43/105 of 8 December 1988, 44/80 of 8 December 1989, 45/131 of 14 December 1990, 46/88 of 16 December 1991, 47/83 of 16 December 1992, 48/93 of 20 December 1993, 49/148 of 23 December 1994 and 50/139 of 21 December 1995,

Taking note of the report of the Secretary-General on the right of peoples to self-determination, 2/

1. Reaffirms that the universal realization of the right of all peoples, including those under colonial, foreign and alien domination, to self-determination is a fundamental condition for the effective guarantee and observance of human rights and for the preservation and promotion of such rights;

2. Declares its firm opposition to acts of foreign military intervention, aggression and occupation, since these have resulted in the suppression of the right of peoples to self-determination and other human rights in certain parts of the world;

3. Calls upon those States responsible to cease immediately their military intervention in and occupation of foreign countries and territories and all acts of repression, discrimination, exploitation and maltreatment, particularly the brutal and inhuman methods reportedly employed for the execution of those acts against the peoples concerned;

4. Deplores the plight of the millions of refugees and displaced persons who have been uprooted as a result of the aforementioned acts, and reaffirms their right to return to their homes voluntarily in safety and honour;

5. Requests the Commission on Human Rights to continue to give special attention to the violation of human rights, especially the right to self-

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2/ A/51/414.

determination, resulting from foreign military intervention, aggression or occupation;

6. Requests the Secretary-General to report on this question to the General Assembly at its fifty-second session under the item entitled 'Right of peoples to self-determination'.

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Agenda item 104

IMPLEMENTATION OF THE OUTCOME OF THE FOURTH WORLD CONFERENCE ON WOMEN

Draft resolution submitted by the Chairperson of the Third Committee on the basis of informal consultations

Follow-up to the Fourth World Conference on Women and full implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 50/42 of 8 December 1995 and 50/203 of 22 December 1995,

Recalling also Economic and Social Council resolutions 1996/6 of 22 July 1996 on the follow-up to the Fourth World Conference on Women and 1996/34 of 25 July 1996 on the system-wide medium-term plan for the advancement of women, 1996-2001,

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Reaffirming the importance of the outcome of the previous World Conferences on Women, held at Mexico City in 1975, 1/ at Copenhagen in 1980 2/ and at Nairobi in 1985, 3/

Recognizing the significance of the outcome of the Conference to make a real change for the empowerment of women and thus to the fulfilment of the goals adopted in the Nairobi Forward-looking Strategies for the Advancement of Women, 4/

Deeply convinced that the Beijing Declaration 5/ and the Platform for Action, 6/ adopted at the Conference, are important contributions to the advancement of women worldwide and must be translated into effective action by all States, the United Nations system and other organizations concerned, as well as non-governmental organizations,

Recognizing that the implementation of the Platform for Action rests primarily at the national level, that Governments, non-governmental organizations and public and private institutions should be involved in the implementation process and that national mechanisms also have an important role to play,

Bearing in mind that promotion of international cooperation is essential for the effective implementation of the Beijing Declaration and the Platform for Action,

Recognizing that the implementation of the Platform for Action requires commitment from Governments and the international community,

Recognizing also the important role played by States, the United Nations, the regional commissions and other international organizations, as well as non-governmental organizations and women's organizations, in the preparatory

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1/ See Report of the World Conference of the International Women's Year, Mexico City, 19 June-2 July 1975 (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.76.IV.1).

2/ See Report of the World Conference of the United Nations Decade for Women: Equality, Development and Peace, Copenhagen, 14-30 July 1980 (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.80.IV.3 and corrigendum).

3/ See Report of the World Conference to Review and Appraise the Achievements of the United Nations Decade for Women: Equality, Development and Peace, Nairobi, 15-26 July 1985 (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.85.IV.10).

4/ Ibid., chap. I, sect. A.

5/ A/CONF.177/20 and Add.1, chap. I, resolution 1, annex I.

6/ Ibid., annex II.

process of the Conference and the importance of their involvement in the implementation of the Platform for Action,

Taking into account the fact that the follow-up to the Conference should be undertaken on the basis of an integrated approach to the advancement of women within the framework of a coordinated follow-up to and implementation of the results of the major international conferences in the economic, social and related fields, as well as the overall responsibilities of the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council,

Reaffirming its decision that the General Assembly, the Economic and Social Council and the Commission on the Status of Women, in accordance with their respective mandates and with Assembly resolution 48/162 of 20 December 1993 and other relevant resolutions, will constitute a three-tiered intergovernmental mechanism that will play the primary role in the overall policy-making and follow-up, and in coordinating the implementation and monitoring of the Platform for Action, reaffirming the need for a coordinated follow-up to and implementation of the results of major international conferences in the economic, social and related fields,

Reaffirming that the Commission on the Status of Women has a central role as a functional commission assisting the Economic and Social Council in the monitoring, within the United Nations system, of the implementation of the Platform for Action and in advising the Council thereon and should therefore be strengthened,

Also reaffirming that the Economic and Social Council should continue to oversee system-wide coordination in the implementation of the Platform for Action and ensure overall coordination of the follow-up to and implementation of the results of all United Nations international conferences in the economic, social and related fields and report thereon to the General Assembly,

1. Takes note with appreciation of the report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of the outcome of the Fourth World Conference on Women; 7/

2. Takes note of initiatives and actions taken by Governments and the international community towards the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and the Platform for Action adopted by the Conference;

3. Calls once again upon States, the United Nations system and all other actors to implement the Platform for Action, in particular by promoting an active and visible policy of mainstreaming a gender perspective at all levels, including in the design, monitoring and evaluation of all policies, as appropriate, in order to ensure effective implementation of the Platform;

4. Welcomes the contribution of the report of the Secretary-General to translating the concept of mainstreaming into practical action, including the ongoing work to develop methodologies to facilitate the application of a gender

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7/ A/51/322.

perspective into all policies and programmes throughout the United Nations system;

5. Calls for intensified efforts at the international level to integrate the equal status and all human rights of women into the mainstream of United Nations system-wide activity, and to address these issues regularly and systematically throughout the relevant United Nations bodies and mechanisms;

6. Stresses that Governments have the primary responsibility for implementing the Platform for Action, and reaffirms that Governments should continue to commit themselves at the highest political level to its implementation and should take a leading role in coordinating, monitoring and assessing progress in the advancement of women;

7. Calls upon States, with the assistance of non-governmental organizations, to continue to disseminate widely the Beijing Declaration and the Platform for Action;

8. Welcomes the progress made by Governments so far towards meeting the commitment to developing, by 1996, comprehensive implementation strategies or plans of action, including time-bound targets and benchmarks for monitoring, and urges all Governments that have not yet done so to undertake efforts in this regard, in order to implement fully the Platform for Action;

9. Welcomes the contribution made to the elaboration of guidelines for national strategies or plans of action by regional and subregional conferences on the implementation of the Platform for Action, such as the elaboration of a model national action plan by the subregional conference held at Bucharest in September 1996, which may assist other Governments, too, in meeting this commitment, and in this respect encourages the support of, inter alia, the Division for the Advancement of Women of the Secretariat;

10. Urges Governments that have not yet done so to establish or strengthen appropriate national machineries for the advancement of women at the highest political level, appropriate intra- and interministerial procedures and staffing, and other institutions with the mandate and capacity to broaden women's participation and integrate gender analysis into policies and programmes, so as to ensure the full implementation of the Beijing Declaration and the Platform for Action, and takes note of regional initiatives for strengthening national machineries;

11. Encourages non-governmental organizations to contribute to the design and implementation of these strategies or national plans of action in addition to their own programmes that complement government efforts;

12. Calls upon Governments to invite and encourage the active support and participation of a broad and diverse range of other institutional actors, including legislative bodies, academic and research institutions, professional associations, trade unions, local community groups and the media, as well as financial and non-profit organizations for the implementation of the Platform for Action;

13. Recognizes the importance attached to the regional monitoring of the global and regional platforms for action by regional commissions and other subregional or regional structures, within their mandates, in consultation with Governments, and the necessity of promoting cooperation among national Governments of the same region in this respect;

14. Invites the Economic and Social Council, in order to facilitate the regional implementation, monitoring and evaluation process, to consider reviewing the institutional capacity of the United Nations regional commissions, in accordance with paragraph 302 of the Platform for Action, 6/ and to consider, in this context, how best to integrate the inputs by the regional commissions into the overall monitoring and follow-up to the Platform for Action;

15. Calls upon States to take action to fulfil the commitments made at the Conference for the advancement of women and for the strengthening of international cooperation, and reaffirms that adequate financial resources should be committed at the international level for the implementation of the Platform for Action in the developing countries, in particular in Africa, and in the least developed countries;

16. Invites the Secretary-General, in the implementation of the United Nations system-wide initiative on Africa, to pay special attention to the needs and role of women as actors and beneficiaries in the development process;

17. Recognizes that implementation of the Platform for Action in the countries with economies in transition requires continued international cooperation and assistance, as indicated in the Platform for Action;

18. Calls upon Member States to allocate sufficient resources for undertaking gender impact analysis in order to develop successful national implementation strategies for the Platform for Action;

19. Stresses that full and effective implementation of the Platform for Action will require a political commitment to make available human and financial resources for the empowerment of women, the integration of a gender perspective in budgetary decisions on policies and programmes, as well as adequate financing of specific programmes for securing equality between women and men;

20. Welcomes the input of the Commission on the Status of Women to the discussion on the eradication of poverty in the coordination segment of the Economic and Social Council, inter alia, in relation to mainstreaming a gender perspective in poverty eradication activities and the use of available funding sources and mechanisms, with a view to contributing towards the goals of poverty eradication and targeting women living in poverty;

21. Urges Governments, the United Nations system, including the Bretton Woods institutions, and relevant international organizations, non-governmental organizations and the private sector to empower women through concrete actions, policies and programmes, including integration of gender perspectives;

22. Requests Governments and the international community to implement specific programmes for the eradication of poverty and illiteracy, ensuring

women's equal access to education, training, employment and the promotion of entrepreneurial activities, and strongly urges the international community to support national efforts towards the advancement of women in developing countries, particularly in Africa and the least developed countries;

23. Reaffirms that, in order to implement the Platform for Action, a reformulation of policies and reallocation of resources may be needed, but that some policy changes may not necessarily have financial implications;

24. Reaffirms also that, in order to implement the Platform for Action, adequate mobilization of resources at the national and international levels, as well as new and additional resources to the developing countries, in particular in Africa, and the least developed countries, from all available funding mechanisms, including multilateral, bilateral and private sources for the advancement of women, will also be required;

25. Calls upon those States committed to the 20:20 initiative to integrate a gender perspective fully into its implementation, as referred to in paragraph 358 of the Platform for Action;

26. Recognizes that the creation of an enabling environment, at the national and international level, is necessary to ensure the full participation of women in economic activities, and calls upon States to remove obstacles for the full implementation of the Beijing Declaration and the Platform for Action;

27. Calls upon Member States to commit themselves to gender balance, inter alia, through the creation of special mechanisms, in all government-appointed committees, boards and other relevant official bodies, as appropriate, as well as in all international bodies, institutions and organizations, notably by presenting and promoting more women candidates;

28. Also calls upon Member States to aim at and support gender balance in the composition of delegations to the United Nations and other international forums;

29. Reaffirms that the implementation of the Platform for Action will require immediate and concerted action by all to create a peaceful, just and humane world based on all human rights and fundamental freedoms, including the principle of equality for all people of all ages and from all walks of life, and to this end, recognizes that broad-based and sustained economic growth in the context of sustainable development is necessary to sustain social development and social justice;

30. Stresses, in relation to the United Nations, that the Platform for Action needs to be implemented through the work of all the bodies and organizations of the system during the period 1995-2000, specifically and as an integral part of wider programming;

31. Also stresses that the means of implementation of the Platform for Action should include mainstreaming a gender perspective in the context of preparation of the programme budget for the period 1998-1999;

32. Welcomes the endorsement by the Economic and Social Council of the revised system-wide medium-term plan for the advancement of women, 1996-2001 and its decision to undertake, in 1998, a comprehensive mid-term review of the implementation of the revised plan as a basis for future programming and coordination of activities for the advancement and empowerment of women by the United Nations system, including a review of the progress made in mainstreaming a gender perspective in all activities of the United Nations system;

33. Requests the Secretary-General, in his capacity as Chairman of the Administrative Committee on Coordination, to formulate a new system-wide medium-term plan for the advancement of women to cover the period 2002-2005, to submit a new draft plan to the Economic and Social Council at its substantive session of 2000 in order to provide guidance for the medium-term plans of the individual organizations of the United Nations system, and to submit the draft plan to the Commission on the Status of Women at its forty-fourth session, for comments;

34. Reiterates the need for an enhanced framework for international cooperation for gender-related issues in the integrated and comprehensive implementation, follow-up and assessment of the Platform for Action, taking into account the results of global United Nations summits and conferences;

35. Welcomes the decision of the Economic and Social Council to devote its 1997 coordination segment to mainstreaming a gender perspective, and reiterates its invitation to the Council to consider devoting one high-level segment and one operational segment to the advancement of women and implementation of the Platform for Action, before the year 2000, taking into account the multi-year programme of work of the Commission on the Status of Women and all other functional commissions of the Council and the need for a system-wide approach to the implementation of the Platform for Action;

36. Welcomes the establishment of the Inter-agency Committee on Women and Gender Equality and notes the work done by the Special Adviser to the Secretary-General on Gender Issues for the system-wide implementation of the Platform for Action;

37. Welcomes that the Inter-agency Committee on Women and Gender Equality will serve as a forum for information exchange and the promotion of programme coordination and collaborative arrangements among organizations of the system, and will be responsible for addressing on a comprehensive system-wide basis all aspects of the implementation of the Platform for Action and gender-related recommendations emanating from other recent international conferences within the purview of the United Nations system;

38. Welcomes developments in coordination at the inter-agency level, including work done by the Inter-agency Committee on Women and Gender Equality expected to move forward the conceptual discussion of mainstreaming, and stresses the need for further work to mainstream a gender perspective into the day-to-day work of United Nations staff throughout the system, and in intergovernmental action beyond the social sectors and operational activities;

39. Also welcomes Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/6, in which the Council strengthens the mandate and the terms of reference of the Commission

on the Status of Women and endorses the Commission's multi-year work programme for the period 1996-2000, and also welcomes Commission on the Status of Women agreed conclusions 1996/1 of March 1996 on the Commission's methods of work for dealing with the implementation of the Platform for Action; 8/

40. Invites once again all other functional commissions of the Economic and Social Council, within their mandates, to take due account of the Platform for Action and to ensure the integration of gender aspects in their respective work;

41. Welcomes the measures taken by the Secretary-General to date to ensure coordination of policy within the United Nations for the implementation of the Platform for Action and the mainstreaming of a system-wide gender perspective in all activities of the United Nations system, including training, in accordance with paragraph 326 of the Platform for Action;

42. Requests the Secretary-General to present action-oriented recommendations to the Economic and Social Council coordination segment on means to enhance system-wide coordination on gender issues and to mainstream a gender perspective throughout the United Nations system;

43. Also requests the Secretary-General to continue to disseminate the Beijing Declaration and the Platform for Action as widely as possible, including to the competent organs of the United Nations and the specialized agencies;

44. Reiterates its request to the Secretary-General to ensure that the Division for the Advancement of Women can effectively carry out all the tasks foreseen for it in the Platform for Action by, inter alia, providing sufficient human and financial resources within the regular budget of the United Nations;

45. Requests the Secretary-General, in cooperation with the Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme, to ensure that the resident coordinators fully incorporate a gender perspective in integrating the follow-up to the Fourth World Conference on Women into the coordinated follow-up to recent global United Nations conferences;

46. Welcomes the decision of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women to amend its reporting guidelines in line with the recommendations of paragraph 323 of the Platform for Action to enable it to consider reports submitted by States parties, and invites States parties to include information on measures taken to implement the Platform for Action in their reports;

47. Notes the importance of the activities undertaken by the United Nations Development Fund for Women and the International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women in the implementation of the Platform for Action;

8/ Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 1996, Supplement No. 6 (E/1996/26), chap. I, sect. C.1.

48. Commends the work of the International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women on the issues addressing the process of the economic and political empowerment of women, statistics and indicators in gender issues, inter alia, and requests the Institute to incorporate in its biennial work programme appropriate actions in order to carry out research and training components relevant to the twelve critical areas of concern and the implementation of the Platform for Action, within its area of expertise;

49. Also commends the work of the United Nations Development Fund for Women in providing a strategic and focused response to the follow-up and implementation of the Platform for Action through its advocacy and operational activities in support of women's economic and political empowerment, and encourages the Fund to provide technical support to operationalize the Platform for Action at the national level through, inter alia, the resident coordinator system, and taking into account decision 1996/43 of the Executive Board of the United Nations Development Programme/United Nations Population Fund;

50. Encourages the International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women, the United Nations Development Fund for Women and the Division for the Advancement of Women to strengthen their cooperation and coordination;

51. Encourages international financial institutions to review and revise policies, procedures and staffing to ensure that investments and programmes benefit women and thus contribute to sustainable development;

52. Invites the World Trade Organization to consider how it might contribute to the implementation of the Platform for Action, including activities in cooperation with the United Nations system;

53. Decides to appraise the progress on an annual basis and to retain in the agenda of its forthcoming sessions the item entitled "Implementation of the outcome of the Fourth World Conference on Women", with a view to assessing, in the year 2000, the progress achieved in the implementation of the Nairobi Forward-looking Strategies for the Advancement of Women and the Platform for Action in an appropriate forum;

54. Requests the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its fifty-second session and thereafter annually, through the Commission on the Status of Women and the Economic and Social Council, on ways to enhance the capacity of the Organization and of the United Nations system to support the ongoing follow-up to the Conference in the most integrated and effective way, including human and financial requirements, and measures taken and the progress achieved in the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and the Platform for Action.

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PROGRAMME OF ACTIVITIES OF THE INTERNATIONAL DECADE OF THE WORLD'S INDIGENOUS PEOPLE

Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Bhutan, Bolivia, Brazil, Canada, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Denmark, Ecuador, Estonia, Fiji, Finland, Greece, Guyana, Iceland, Mexico, Norway, Peru, Solomon Islands and Sweden: draft resolution

International Decade of the World's Indigenous People

The General Assembly,

Bearing in mind that one of the purposes of the United Nations, as set forth in the Charter, is the achievement of international cooperation in solving international problems of an economic, social, cultural or humanitarian character and in promoting and encouraging respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms for all without distinction as to race, sex, language or religion,

Recalling its previous resolutions on the International Decade of the World's Indigenous People, as well as those of the Commission on Human Rights,

Recalling also that the goal of the Decade is to strengthen international cooperation for the solution of problems faced by indigenous people in such areas as human rights, the environment, development, education and health, and that the theme of the Decade is "Indigenous people: partnership in action",

Recognizing the importance of consultation and cooperation with indigenous people in planning and implementing the programme of activities for the Decade, the need for adequate financial support from the international community, including support from within the United Nations and the specialized agencies, and the need for adequate coordination and communication channels,

Taking note of Economic and Social Council decision 1992/255 of 20 July 1992, in which the Council requested United Nations bodies and specialized agencies to ensure that all technical assistance financed or provided by them was compatible with international instruments and standards applicable to indigenous people, and encouraged efforts to promote coordination in this field and greater participation of indigenous people in the planning and implementation of projects affecting them,

Recalling its resolution 50/156 of 21 December 1995,

1. Affirms its conviction of the value and diversity of the cultures and forms of social organization of indigenous people, and that the development of indigenous people within their countries will contribute to the socio-economic, cultural and environmental advancement of all the countries of the world;

2. Notes that the programme of activities for the International Decade of the World's Indigenous People may be reviewed and updated throughout the Decade and that at the mid-point of the Decade the Economic and Social Council and the General Assembly should review the results of the activities to identify obstacles to achievement of the goals of the Decade and to recommend solutions for overcoming those obstacles;

3. Takes note of the report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of the programme of activities for the Decade; 1/

4. Welcomes the resolve of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights to strengthen efforts to achieve the goals of the programme of activities for the Decade; 2/

5. Reaffirms as a major objective of the Decade the adoption of a declaration on the rights of indigenous people, and notes that there have been two meetings of the open-ended inter-sessional Working Group of the Commission on Human Rights established pursuant to Commission resolution 1995/32 of 3 March 1995 3/ with the sole purpose of elaborating a draft declaration, considering the draft United Nations declaration on the rights of indigenous peoples, annexed to resolution 1994/45 of 26 August 1994 of the Subcommission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities;

6. Underlines the importance of effective participation by indigenous representatives in the Working Group and encourages organizations of indigenous people that are not already registered to participate and wish to do so to apply for authorization in accordance with the procedure set out in the annex to Commission on Human Rights resolution 1995/32;

1/ A/51/499.

2/ Resolution 50/157, annex.

3/ Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 1995, Supplement No. 3 and corrigenda (E/1995/23 and Corr.1 and 2), chap. II, sect. A.

7. Welcomes the Secretary-General's review of the existing mechanisms, procedures and programmes within the United Nations concerning indigenous people, 4/ and requests the Secretary-General to transmit the review, prior to the fifty-third session of the Commission on Human Rights, to Governments, indigenous people and relevant international organizations for their comments;

8. Recognizes amongst the objectives of the Decade, as listed in the programme of activities, the consideration of the establishment of a permanent forum for indigenous people in the United Nations system;

9. Recalls its recommendation as contained in General Assembly resolution 50/157 of 21 December 1995 that the Commission on Human Rights, drawing on the results of the Copenhagen workshop 5/ and the Secretary-General's review, consider the convening of a second workshop on the possible establishment of a permanent forum for indigenous people;

10. Recommends in the light of the review that efforts be made to ensure that relevant United Nations bodies and agencies, as well as other relevant United Nations organizations, take part in any further consultations on the issue, and welcomes the offer of the Government of Chile to host a second workshop;

11. Emphasizes the important role of international cooperation in promoting the goals and activities of the Decade and the rights, well-being and sustainable development of indigenous people;

12. Reaffirms the importance of strengthening the human and institutional capacity of indigenous people to develop their own solutions to their problems and, for these purposes, its recommendation that the United Nations University consider the possibility of sponsoring, in each region, one or more institutions of higher education as centres of excellence and the diffusion of expertise, and invites the Commission on Human Rights to recommend appropriate means of implementation;

13. Also emphasizes the importance of action at the national level for the implementation of the goals and activities of the Decade;

14. Encourages Governments to support the Decade by:

(a) Contributing to the United Nations Trust Fund for the Decade;

(b) Preparing relevant programmes, plans and reports in relation to the Decade, in consultation with indigenous people;

(c) Seeking means, in consultation with indigenous people, of giving indigenous people greater responsibility for their own affairs and an effective voice in decisions on matters which affect them;

4/ A/51/493.

5/ E/CN.4/Sub.2/AC.4/1995/7 and Add.1-3.

(d) Establishing national committees or other mechanisms involving indigenous people to ensure that the objectives and activities of the Decade are planned and implemented on the basis of full partnership with indigenous people;

15. Also encourages Governments and other donors to contribute to the United Nations Voluntary Fund for Indigenous Populations;

16. Appeals to Governments and intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations to support the Decade by identifying resources for activities designed to implement the goals of the Decade, in cooperation with indigenous people;

17. Invites the United Nations financial and developmental institutions, operational programmes and specialized agencies, in accordance with the existing procedures of their governing bodies:

(a) To give increased priority and resources to improving the conditions of indigenous people, with particular emphasis on the needs of those people in developing countries, including by preparation of specific programmes of action for the implementation of the goals of the Decade, within their areas of competence;

(b) To launch special projects, through appropriate channels and in collaboration with indigenous people, for strengthening their community-level initiatives, and to facilitate the exchange of information and expertise amongst indigenous people and other relevant experts;

(c) To designate focal points for coordination with the Centre for Human Rights of the Secretariat of activities related to the Decade;

18. Recommends that the Secretary-General ensure coordinated follow-up to the recommendations concerning indigenous people of relevant world conferences, namely the World Conference on Human Rights, the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, the International Conference on Population and Development, the Fourth World Conference on Women and the World Summit for Social Development;

19. Requests the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights when developing programmes within the framework of the Human Rights Education Decade to give due regard to the dissemination of information on the situation, cultures, languages, rights and aspirations of indigenous people;

20. Decides to include in the provisional agenda of its fifty-second session the item entitled "Programme of activities of the International Decade of the World's Indigenous People".